The Aloha Archives
A Nonprofit Organization’s View of Collaboration, Peace, and Harmony in Cultural Heritage Organizations of the Pacific Islands

- Brandon Oswald, Executive Director, Archivist, Volunteer

Island Culture Archival Support
What is our journey?

Island Culture Archival Support (ICAS)

“Aloha Spirit”
What is our journey?

Pacific Islands Archives

Globalism
1. Who do you help and what services do you provide?

2. Where do you get your funding?

3. How did the organization begin?
Who does ICAS help?
What services does ICAS offer?
Where does funding come from?

The Main sources:

- Individual donations
- Grants
- Crowdfunding
How did ICAS begin?

- Did not happen over night
- Took about six years to develop
- Personal events helped with the formation of the organization
How did ICAS begin?

- Volunteered in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 2002
- Volunteered in New Orleans, Louisiana, 2006
- Volunteered in Port Vila, Vanuatu, 2007
Achievements

- Donated archival supplies to various archives in the region
- Helped transition two archives into new buildings
- Provided training and workshops
“Aloha Spirit”
Growth in the Pacific Islands are about:

- Culture
- Personal
- Spiritual
- Collective
Community
“What can I give?”
The Aloha Spirit is linked to people’s environment

- In Vanuatu- “Graon Hemi Laef”
  “Land is Life”

- In Micronesia land is:
  “our strength, our life, our hope for the future.”
Pacific Islands Culture
Ron Crocombe says,

“A person without a culture is a person without a soul. Culture is something that belongs to a particular group— it is something its members can call their own. Culture is a means by which a particular group can assert itself and develop confidence. Secondly, cultural expression allows for greater fulfillment of the potential of everyone.”
Pacific Islands Arts

Consists of many forms such as:

- An Outrigger canoe
- Tattooing
- A ghost story
- Carving
- Kava making
- Dancing
- Singing
- An epic legend
- And much, much more!
Pacific Islands Arts Periods

Pre-Contact Period

Contact Period
Pacific Islands Arts Periods

Post-independence Period

Neo-traditional Period
Pacific Islands Archives

- Contact Period, 1768-1959
- Post Independence Period, 1960-1980
- Neo-traditional Period, 1981- present
Pacific Island Archives

◆ Contact Period

- Explorers, whalers, traders
- Missionaries
- Colonial Governments
Pacific Islands Archives

- Post-Independence Period
  - More government records!
  - Anthropology & Ethnography
The desire and need to collect and preserve culture and history
ICAS, Peace, Harmony and Globalism

◆ Globalism... culturally speaking:

- Globalism is the belief that worldwide integration of cultures is both possible and desirable.

- Cultural heritage organizations in the region want to be part of globalism and a borderless society that helps to increase the dissemination of their records.

- Globalism advocates that mankind should not fend for themselves.
ICAS, Volunteers, Archival Businesses
PARBICA
The Pacific Regional Branch International Council on Archives
UNESCO’s Memory of the World Program
Community Involvement
A Final Thought

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